



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Umio Mukai
Serial No.: 10/619,746
Filed: July 15, 2003
For: FILTER APPARATUS
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Confirmation No.: 7413
Art Unit: 1723
Customer No.: 27623

Attorney Docket No.: 0001418/2215USU

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, we are enclosing form PTO-1449 listing information that may be material to the patentability of this application.

Cited in the attached PTO-1449 is U.S. Patent No.: 4,271,019 and French Patent Nos.: 1.196.914, 1.276.086, 2.289.222 and German Patent No. 473680. Also enclosed is the European Search Report Application No. EP 03254392, dated February 18, 2004.

Pursuant to the waiving of the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i), a copy of the U.S. reference is not enclosed.

It is applicant's belief that none of the above citations describe that which is claimed in the present invention.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the citations that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed citations and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

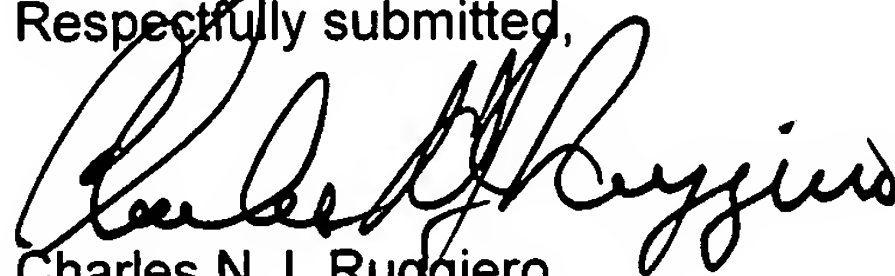
Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the issuance of the first Office Action based on the merits, no petition or fee is required.

Since this paper contains only an IDS in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 it should not be considered a failure to engage in reasonable efforts to conclude prosecution (processing or examination) of the application under paragraphs 37 CFR 1.704(d). Specifically, each item in this IDS was received from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application on March 17, 2004 by our client, who are believed to be individuals designated under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) and, thus, was not received more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Date: April 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Charles N.J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Attorney for Applicant(s)

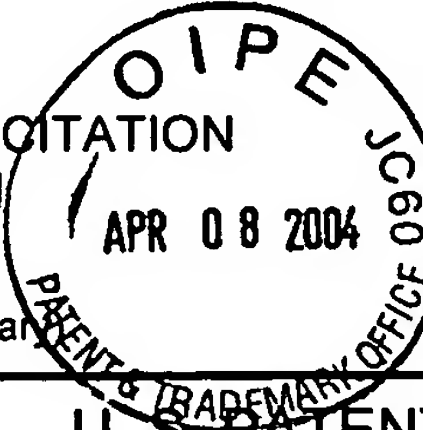
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10th Floor

Stamford, CT 06901-2682

(203) 327-4500

FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number (Optional)	Application Number
	0001418/2215USU	10/619,746
	Applicant	
	Umio Mukai	
	Filing Date	Group Art Unit
	July 15, 2003	1723



U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,271,019	6/2/81	Galletti	210	108	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
	1.196.914	11/26/59	France				X
	1.276.086	11/17/61	France				X
	2.289.222	5/28/76	France				X
	473680	3/20/29	Germany				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	European Search Report Application No. EP 03254392, dated February 18, 2004.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing:

1. Information Disclosure Statement/ PTO Form 1449 with copies of references;
2. European Search Report Application No. 03254392, dated February 18, 2004;
3. Transmittal letter in duplicate; and
4. Postcard.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any such fees, if necessary to **Deposit Account No. 01-0467** in the name of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles N.J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10th Floor

Stamford, Connecticut 06901-2682

(203) 327-4500

Date: April 6, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, , ON April 6, 2004.

Michelle Pagliarulo
NAME

SIGNATURE

4/6/04
DATE